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How far unofficial negotiations went is not known, but the fact was that the decision was followed by Grant's withholding military interference in the organization of the Louisiana government, and the "government *de facto*" was not that certified by the returning board. To declare that the other was still the "government *de jure*" seemed a strain upon any conscience, but Morton did not falter. Then, Hayes sent commissions to negotiate a settlement in Louisiana and South Carolina, and the dissolution of the so-called Republican legislatures followed. The plan of reconstruction and perpetuation of party domination under Morton's doctrine of the right of Congress "to raise up a new loyal voting population" had failed. Ten years' struggle had left the races as hostile as ever. What had been done toward lifting the freedmen into capacity for self-government under the fostering power of the nation used in the cause of humanity and freedom? Had the adopted plan ever a chance of success? Was it intelligently adapted to the solution of the great problem? Had the end been feasible and the means honest? Was it statesmanship? The final reputation of Morton is involved in the answer. Many incidents of his career and other questions of public policy which he debated would repay examination; but the matters above discussed are, after all, those which must determine his character as a public man.

Historic Towns of New England. Edited by LYMAN P. POWELL.
(New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1898. Pp. xxi, 599.)

THIS book, as explained by the editor in his preface, is partly the product of a tour undertaken by a party starting from Philadelphia at the close of the University Extension Summer Meeting in 1894, for "a ten days' pilgrimage in the footsteps of George Washington." But as Washington never visited half the places described in it, the book is seen to be both more and less than was originally planned for—more, because many of the towns spoken of were not included in the pilgrimage, and less, because the places outside of New England which were visited by Washington and by these pilgrims are not included in this work, but are left for a possible future publication on Historic Towns of the Middle States.

About one-half of the book consists apparently of the addresses made to the travelling party at the places actually visited; and the other half includes valuable descriptions, by different authors, of other towns, which have been added in order to give a larger representation of what New England has been in history. It would seem as if one who assumes to be the editor of such a work should at least have written the introduction. It is difficult to see what "editing" has been done, except to solicit the manuscripts and perhaps to select some of the illustrations. Each chapter is by a responsible author, who appears to have done his own editing. There is not a single foot-note by Mr. Powell. Indeed, it is rather surprising that a Pennsylvanian should undertake to give to the world a book about a section of the country with which he is not familiar, and concern-

ing which he has not himself written a single chapter. However, he has prevailed upon fifteen writers—each of them well known and abundantly qualified—to furnish the contents of the book ; and we may well thank any man who has the enterprise to secure such a staff, and give permanent form to such excellent materials for our local and municipal history.

The Introduction by George P. Morris is a comprehensive and philosophical essay, of some fifty pages, on the characteristic institutions of New England. These are well described in the order of the Church, the Town House, the School, the Railway, the Factory and the Public Library, with brief allusions to other agencies such as the Savings Bank, the Newspaper, the Lodge and the Village Store, with a suggestive reference—in the case of a large number of towns—to the exclusion of the liquor shop.

The story of Portland is narrated by Samuel T. Pickard. The illustrations are too few for so important a city. The quiet and recently-discovered hill-town of Rutland in Worcester County is described by Mr. Mead, whose enthusiasm for Rufus Putnam and Manasseh Cutler and “the Ordinance of 1787” and the founding of Ohio is second only to that of Senator Hoar. The annals and treasures of Salem are unfolded by George D. Latimer with appropriate illustrations. Col. Higginson tells of the topography and growth of Boston, of its patriots and statesmen and literati, its charities and libraries and museums. Dr. Hale gives one of his popular papers on Revolutionary Boston. Samuel A. Eliot treats of Cambridge with special reference to its university. Concord, first in many fields, is safe in the hands of Frank B. Sanborn. Ellen Watson writes feelingly of Plymouth which she knows so well. The reader is somewhat surprised to find Cape Cod Towns honored with a chapter. They have too often been overlooked. Katharine Lee Bates writes of them all, beginning with Provincetown and ending with Falmouth. She has evidently studied the Cape and prepared one of the best general accounts of it ever written. The marine view on p. 347 is uncommonly good.

No one could tell the thrilling story of Deerfield better than George Sheldon, who has done so much for the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and for its unrivalled museum of relics. A fine portrait of George Fuller is given on p. 437, but there is no mention of him in the text to show that he was a son of Deerfield. Here was an opportunity for the editor to supply the deficiency. Newport, the Isle of Peace, with its peculiar attractions, is pleasantly described by Susan Coolidge ; and Providence, the Colony of Hope, is sketched by William B. Weeden, who honors the unique record of its plantations, its churches, its industries, its college, its men, its ideas. Mary K. Talcott writes of Hartford ; and Frederick H. Cogswell of New Haven.

The illustrations are numerous and unusually good throughout the book. Some of them have appeared in magazines and other publications. They are all welcome here. The frontispiece is unwisely reproduced on p. 323. The book is too heavy to hold conveniently in the hand. Con-

sidering the composite character of the work, its unity is well maintained and the chapters are all of a high order.

Municipal History and Present Organization of the City of Chicago.

By SAMUEL EDWIN SPARLING, Ph.D. [Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, No. 23.] (Madison, Wisconsin: the University. 1898. Pp. 188.)

OF the seventeen chapters in this book, six, comprising about one-quarter of the space, are given to the history of the city government of Chicago from 1833 to 1872. The rest of the book is devoted to a description of the present organization of the city government as developed under the act of 1872.

The author aims to show in the first part how the germs of municipal government contained in the village charter of 1833 grew into the highly complicated organism of 1898. He traces the evolution of the power of the mayor as the central thought of this development from the time when he was simply the presiding officer of the village board of trustees, elected by the board, entrusted with little or no initiative power, granted little or no control over legislation or administration, to the present, when, having achieved an independent position, elected by popular vote, though still the presiding officer of the council, he has become the acknowledged head of the administration, and even a powerful element in the legislative body itself. A description is given of the process by which the system of independent administrative boards was gradually evolved out of the old village board of trustees, and of the methods by which, when these boards had done their work, they were converted into a system of administrative departments under single heads responsible to the mayor.

The later chapters, comprising two-thirds of the book, are given to an exposition of the present organization of the various city departments. The following titles of several of the chapters indicate the line of development: The Common Council; The Mayor and His Functions; The Administration of Finance; Department of Public Works; Institutions for Protection and Education—Police, Fire, Health, Schools; Town and County Government in Chicago; The Park Administration. A bibliography of some ten pages contains a list of the sources from which the author drew his material, including a chronological arrangement of the laws relating to the government of the city passed by the legislature of Illinois. It is unfortunate that no index accompanies the work, though the table of contents, being quite full, makes up in some part for the omission.

It is evident that within the limits of a monograph of less than 200 pages with wide margins and few foot-notes, only a mere outline of such a complicated and comprehensive subject as that of the city government of Chicago can be given. It is also plain that where the attempt is made to cover the whole ground, little more can be done than to utilize in a